

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 13, 17-18, 24-28, 34-38 and 44-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,211,805 to Srinivasan (“Srinivasan”).

Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0158288 to Yamazaki et al. (“Yamazaki”).

Claims 19-23, 29-33 and 39-43 are allowed.

Response to the Office Action

At the outset, Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for allowing claims 19-23, 29-33 and 39-43.

Turning to the rejections, claims 13, 17-18, 24-28, 34-38 and 44-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Srinivasan, and claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of Yamazaki. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Each of independent claims 13, 24-28, 34-38 and 44-47 include grinding the substrate after the step of forming the starting point region for cutting such that the substrate attains a predetermined thickness. The Office Action does not indicate where Srinivasan teaches such grinding. Applicants respectfully submit that Srinivasan discloses that “etching” is used for “ablation,” that is, forming grooves in an organic solid. Applicants have reviewed Srinivasan as

described in the Office Action and respectfully submit that Srinivasan does not disclose grinding the substrate after the step of forming the starting point region for cutting such that the substrate attains a predetermined thickness, as described in each of the rejected independent claims.

Moreover, Applicants submit that Srinivasan is directed to a method of cutting an organic solid with continuous wave ultraviolet irradiation. According to Srinivasan, a laser (beam) is transmitted through a focusing lens 16 to a spot 18 on a surface of an organic solid 20 (see column 6, lines 11-13). Further, the laser makes grooves extending from a surface of the organic solid in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the organic solid, to a back surface of the organic solid to cut the organic solid. That is to say, the cutting is so called “ablation.” In contrast, Applicants’ invention is directed to converging a laser light within a substrate to make a starting point for cutting in a substrate inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the substrate. That is, in Applicants’ invention, the laser light is focused not on a surface of the substrate but within the substrate. Further, Applicants’ substrate is not cut by “ablation,” that is, Applicants’ substrate is not cut by making grooves extending from one surface of the substrate to the other surface of the substrate.

Dependent claims 14-18 and 48-55 depend from respective independent claims described above, and recite the same combination of features recited in the respective independent claims, as well as additional features that define over the prior art. Applicants submit that Yamazaki fails to overcome the above described deficiencies of Srinivasan. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), of claims 13-16, 17-18, 24-28, 34-38 and 44-55, be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

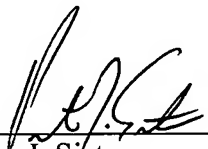
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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